

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-10

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7596

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBAPEST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION GENEVA

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, FI, CZ, BU, HU, GATT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FINNISH OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS FREE TRADE AREA

AGREEMENTS

REF: A. GENEVA 6182; B. B. PRAGUE 2479; C. EC BRUSSELS 7660;

D. HELSINKI 1975

1. FINNISH MFA OFFICIAL YRJO-KOSKINEN (REF D) WILL BE IN BRUSSELS OCTOBER 15. TALVITIE, FINNISH AMBASSADOR TO EC, HAS ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR GREENWALD, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS FINNISH TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ON THE BASIS OF A PRELIMINARY TALK WITH TALVITIE, IT APPEARS THAT THE FINNS WILL BE SEEKING US SUPPORT IN THE GATT. KOSKINEN WILL ALSO BE SEEING EC OFFICIALS.

2. IF THERE IS ANY US VIEW, WE WANT TO CONVEY TO FINNS AT THIS TIME, SEND QUIDANCE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS OCTOBER 15. ANY RESPONSE TO HELSINKI'S SUGGESTION IN PARA 9 OF

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REF D RE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MALMGREN COULD BE TRANSMITTED.

3. FINNS ARE OBVIOUSLY OUT LOBBYING HARD TO AVOID DIFFICULTIES IN GATT. TALVITIE TOLD GREENWALD THAT AGREEMENT WITH CZECHS WAS "MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH" WHICH SERVED INTERESTS OF US AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES TRYING TO GET TRADE CONCESSIONS FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. ON PERSONAL BASIS, AMBASSADOR GREENWALD EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH FINNISH POLITICAL PROBLEMS BUT STATED THAT IN HIS VIEW GATT FREE TRADE AREA CONCEPT WAS TOTAL NONSENSE IN TRADE WITH CENTRALLY-PLANNED, STATE-TRADING-ECONOMY COUNTRIES. GREENWALD

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